

Listing of Claims

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1. (Currently Amended) A folder type mobile terminal, comprising:

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an upper cover;

a lower cover attached to the upper cover and configured to receive a display module therein; and

a display protecting member configured to be fitted at an inner surface of the lower cover and to cover an outer surface of the display module so as to protect the display module from an external force, wherein the display protecting member comprises a lower portion and a first supporting rib formed extended upwardly a predetermined height and width from the lower portion so as to cover a circumferential surface of the display module and wherein a predetermined first air gap is maintained between an upper surface of the first supporting rib and a lower surface of the upper cover,

wherein the lower surface of the upper cover deflects through the air gap when an external impact is imposed on the upper cover, the upper surface of the first supporting rib arranged to contact the lower surface of the deflecting upper cover to prevent the lower surface of the deflecting upper cover from contacting the display module, and

wherein a second air gap is maintained between all areas of the upper surface of the display module and the lower surface of the upper cover when the upper and lower covers of the mobile terminal are attached.

2. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the display protecting member is configured to surround the circumferential surface of the display module.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 1, wherein a height of the first supporting rib is greater than a height of the display module.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the display module is mounted in an open portion formed on a lower portion of the display protecting member.

7. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the display protecting member is formed of a metal material.

8. (Original) The terminal of claim 7, wherein the display protecting member is formed of stainless steel.

9. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the display module comprises at least a sub display and a main display, and wherein at least one of the displays comprises a liquid crystal display (LCD).

10. (Currently Amended) A folder type mobile terminal, comprising:

a folder portion, comprising a first cover and a second cover, wherein the first cover and the second cover are configured to be attached so as to form a space therebetween; and

a display protecting member configured to be installed in the space formed between the first cover and the second cover and to surround a display module installed therein so as to prevent contact between the display module and the folder,

wherein the display protecting member comprises a lower portion and a supporting rib formed extended upwardly from the lower portion, wherein the supporting rib is configured to cover a circumferential surface of the display module, and wherein a predetermined clearance in the form of a first air gap is formed between an upper surface of the supporting rib and a lower surface of the first cover when the first cover and the second cover are attached prior to an external impact on the first cover, and

wherein a second air gap is maintained between all areas of an upper surface of the display module and a lower surface of the first cover when the first cover and the second cover are attached so that, when an external force is applied to the first cover, deformation of the first cover is substantially prevented, thereby preventing damage to the display module.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 10, wherein an upper end of the supporting rib extends beyond an upper surface of the display module.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The terminal of claim 10, wherein the display module is installed in an open portion formed on a lower portion of the display protecting member.

16. (Original) The terminal of claim 10, wherein the display protecting member is formed of a metal material.

17. (Original) The terminal of claim 10, wherein the display module comprises at least a sub display and a main display, and wherein at least one of the displays comprises a liquid crystal display (LCD).

18. (Currently Amended) A display protecting mechanism for a mobile terminal, comprising:

a lower portion;

an open portion formed in the lower portion and configured to receive a display module; and

a supporting rib formed extended upwardly from the lower portion a predetermined height and width, and configured to cover a circumferential surface of the display module, wherein the display protecting mechanism is configured to be installed in a lower cover of the mobile terminal such that a predetermined clearance in the form of a first air gap is formed between an upper surface of the supporting rib and a lower surface of an upper cover of the mobile terminal when the upper and lower covers of the mobile terminal are attached prior to an external impact on the upper cover; and

a second air gap is formed between all areas of an upper surface of the display module and the lower surface of the upper cover of the mobile terminal when the upper and lower covers of the mobile terminal are attached.

19. (Previously Presented) The display protecting mechanism of claim 18, wherein the display protecting mechanism is further configured such that when it is installed in the mobile terminal an upper portion of the supporting rib extends beyond the upper surface of the display module installed in the open portion.

20. (Previously Presented) The display protecting mechanism of claim 19, wherein the display protecting mechanism is further configured such that when it is installed in the mobile terminal the second gap is greater than zero when the first air gap is reduced to substantially zero due to application of an external force to the upper cover of the mobile terminal.

21. (Previously Presented) The display protecting mechanism of claim 19, wherein the display protecting mechanism is further configured such that when it is installed in the mobile terminal the second gap remains greater than the first air gap when an external force is applied to the cover of the mobile terminal.

22. (Original) The display protecting mechanism of claim 18, wherein the lower portion and supporting rib are formed of stainless steel.

23. (Original) A mobile terminal comprising the display protecting mechanism of claim 18.

24. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the display protecting member does not contact any portion of the upper cover.

25. (Currently Amended) A folder-type mobile The terminal of claim 1, further comprising:

an upper cover;

a lower cover attached to the upper cover and configured to receive a display module therein; and

a display protecting member configured to be fitted at an inner surface of the lower cover and to cover an outer surface of the display module so as to protect the display module from an external force, wherein the display protecting member comprises a lower

portion and a first supporting rib formed extended upwardly a predetermined height and width from the lower portion so as to cover a circumferential surface of the display module and wherein a predetermined air gap is maintained between an upper surface of the first supporting rib and a lower surface of the upper cover,

wherein the lower surface of the upper cover deflects through the air gap when an external impact is imposed on the upper cover, the upper surface of the first supporting rib arranged to contact the lower surface of the deflecting upper cover to prevent the lower surface of the deflecting upper cover from contacting the display module, said terminal further comprising: a second supporting rib extending from the lower cover, wherein the second supporting rib has a surface that is substantially parallel to and in contact with a surface of the first supporting rib.

26. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 25, wherein the display module is secured to the display protecting member based on a friction fit between the first and second supporting ribs.

27. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 25, wherein the first supporting rib has a thickness that is substantially equal to or less than a thickness of the second supporting rib.

28. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the display protecting member has a lower surface substantially perpendicular to the first supporting rib and contacting the lower cover.

29. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the display protecting member includes an aperture to allow for viewing of a first screen of a display module through an interior surface of a folder, said screen not viewable when the folder is in a closed position.